

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A method for detecting surroundings by means of an automotive night vision system comprising several areas, including
  - a detection area, wherein the night vision system is sensitive at least to optical radiation in the IR wavelength region and detects data relating to the surroundings, and
  - an area of representation, wherein information from the data relating to the surroundings detected by the night vision system therein is represented optically to the driver by means of a display device,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein said vehicle has a high beam headlight illuminating a high beam area and a low beam headlight illuminating a low beam area, and wherein the area of representation comprises at most the high beam area of the vehicle.
2. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein an evaluation area is provided within which the data relating to the surroundings detected by means of the night vision system are subjected to evaluation,  
~~in particular object recognition.~~

3. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that wherein a tolerance area adjoins the area of representation.
4. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that wherein the area of representation comprises at least a part of the low beam area.
5. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that wherein the evaluation area comprises at least the high beam area.
6. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that wherein the objects detected by means of the evaluation in the area of representation are emphasized in the optical representation.
7. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that wherein the information relating to the objects detected during the evaluation in the evaluation area is made available to internal vehicle systems for further evaluation.
8. (new) The method as in claim 2, wherein said evaluation is object recognition.